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Rome News-Tribune

September 10,
2003

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THE PCB LEGACY: Timeline of GE's history in Rome

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This is a look at the timeline of GE's history in Greater Rome:

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1953 — Plant opens. GE begins manufacturing medium transformers in Rome. PCB-filled pyranol is used as an insulator in the transformers.

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1969 — Landfill A, open since the beginning of the plant, closes. Landfill A has PCB contamination as well as other pollutants.

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1970 — Landfill C, free of PCBs, opens.

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1975 — Landfill B, with soil from edge of contaminated Landfill A, opens for three months. Afterward, all waste is shipped offsite.

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1977 — GE quits using PCB-laced pyranol as an insulating fluid because of environmental concerns.

[Calhoun Times](#)

[Catoosa County News](#)

1980 — GE's Rome plant is listed as a site for investigation by EPA.

[Cedartown Standard](#)

[Cherokee County
Herald
Rockmart Journal](#)

1982 — Federal Environmental Protection Agency's preliminary assessment is completed.

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1991 — First EPA site inspection completed.

[Walker County
Messenger](#)

1994-5 — The state Environmental Protection Division and GE conduct state-level expanded site investigation of the plant.

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Rome - R. B. Russell
Airport, GA



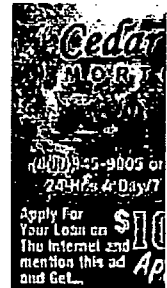
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December 1997—Manufacturing plant closes.

May 2002 — The EPA contacts the EPD about the possibility of placing the GE site on the National Priorities List.

July 2002 — The EPD replies that NPL listing should be considered.

December 2002 — GE and the EPD settle an outstanding permit



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issue concerning groundwater monitoring and standards on site.

January 2003 — GE officials meet with governor's staff, seeking help in stopping the EPA from considering NPL status. EPD officials explain their strategy to the governor's office.

February 2003 — GE and the EPD reach an outline of an agreement for the cleanup of PCBs from the Redmond Circle Corridor.

March 2003 — EPA regional administrator Jimmy Palmer raises concerns about the plan in a letter to EPD Director Harold Reheis.

April 2003 — Reheis replies and asks the EPA to stop considering an NPL designation.

May 2003 — GE submits Redmond Corridor plan to the EPA.

June 2003 — The EPA issues a unilateral administrative order, formally entering the cleanup process.

August 2003 — The EPA, the EPD and GE meet at a closed meeting in Unicoi State Park near Helen. The EPA asks for more study from GE.

September 2003 — The EPA and GE discuss terms of cleanup.

Oct. 1, 2003 — Currently scheduled effective date for the EPA's unilateral administrative order to take effect.

Source: Rome News-Tribune research

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